



Wauchope East LMP Revision

Accessible text from Map 3: Concept

Text begins from uppermost box in the centre of the map working clockwise. The box at the bottom of the map appears last in this list.

Water

Constraints and Opportunities:

There are four main watercourses present within the LMP area. Jed Water, Black Burn and Carter Burn are rated 'Good' for water quality. Hyndlee Burn is rated 'High'. Black Burn is also designated a Special Area of Conservation. There is also a number of PWSs in proximity to the block.

Concept:

Maintain water quality of watercourses and minimise pollution risks via adherence to guidelines. Actively manage and expand broadleaved riparian zones. Reduce clearfell sizes and implement LISS where possible.

Timber Production

Constraints and Opportunities:

Clearfell systems will continue to dominant but conversion to LISS in suitable coupes will be undertaken. Windblow and infected larch has caused some disruption to the forest structure but presents opportunities to re-structure and improve future wind-firmness. Poor quality soils and high winds limits species choice and management options in some areas but opportunities for thinning and diversification remain.

Concept:

Focus on quality timber production where possible via first and second thinnings and implement suitable thinning regimes going forward. Reshape and

restructure coupes to increase stability and mitigate climate change related impacts . Future proof the block via continued diversification and initiating transition to LISS where possible.

Biodiversity

Constraints and Opportunities:

Kielderhead Moor (SSSI) and Black Burn (SAC) are both protected areas however this presents opportunities to conserve and protect important habitats and species. The plan area is home to many protected species presenting opportunities to modify management practices to best conserve them.

Concept:

Investigate possible active management and collaboration opportunities within Kielderhead SSSI. Begin a program of riparian corridor improvements along Black Burn. Increase thinning, LISS and deadwood within the plan area to improve habitats and biodiversity.

Recreation and Heritage

Constraints and Opportunities:

Limited resources available to dedicate to recreation and heritage but opportunities at present for the clearing and maintenance of the Wheel Causeway and Dykeraw Plantation drove road (both of which are core paths and archaeological features).

Concept:

Within budget constraints but undertake clearance and maintenance of the core paths within the LMP area over the duration of the plan period.

Climate

Constraints and Opportunities:

Future warmer drier summers are increased seasonal drought is likely to present water availability issues for drought prone species, shallow rooting species on freely draining soils. Wetter winters may negatively affect the stability of shallow rooting species on ironpans with shallow peat layers. There

are opportunities to improve climate resilience via increased species diversification, thinning and conversion to LISS.

Concept:

Improve climate change resilience via increased species diversification and implementation of thinning regimes and transition to LISS where appropriate. Reshape and re-order certain felling coupes to improve wind resistance.

Landscape

Constraints and Opportunities:

It will take longer than the duration of the plan to fully realise landscape improvements. The loss of larch reduces visual diversification options. There are opportunities to diversify some of the lower slopes where soils are better and to begin softening harsh coupe edges on the upper slopes.

Concept:

Continue with diversification of species and age class. Introduce more broadleaved elements and alternative conifers where possible to compensate for the loss of the larch. Implementation of thinning will improve visual impact of stands and present opportunities for conversion to LISS. Create softer edges on upper slopes where possible.

Objectives

1. Sustainable timber: Continue to ensure regular timber supply and extend roading where required. Resolve coupling issues resulting from sanitation fellings and windblow. Revive thinning program and continue with ongoing diversification program.

2. Climate change: Ensure UKFS compliance area by increasing native broadleaves to at least 5% and continue to build resilience into the plan via increased diversity and implementation of LISS where suitable. Begin a process of adopting sensitive management of deep peats edaphically unsuited to woodland.

3. Biodiversity: Begin program of riparian corridor improvement, focusing initially on Black Burn. Ensure ongoing protection of sensitive habitats and continue to provide suitable habitat for a wide variety of species.

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